

### Our On-Site Partners

- Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Police Department / Family Justice Division
  - Crimes Against Children Unit
  - Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
  - MA Human Trafficking Task Force
- Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County
 

The CAC's On-site Partners:

  - The Child Witness to Violence Project of Boston Medical Center
  - MA Department of Social Services
  - MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
  - MA Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (PediSANE)
  - The Trauma Center at JRI
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Dress for Success Boston
- Finex House / Kim's Project
- Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project
- GLBT DV Attorney Program
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
- MA Department of Transitional Assistance DV Unit
- The Network/ La Red
- Suffolk County DA's Office / Family Protection and Sexual Assault Unit
- Victim Rights Law Center

### Collaboration Works Stories from FJC Partners

As told to Richard Amory, Assistant Development Director  
Some names and identifying information have been changed to preserve confidentiality.

The pimp was waiting outside the Boston area hospital where the young woman was being treated that day. The social worker in the clinic knew Sara, and she knew how dangerous it would be for Sara to leave the hospital with him. To keep her safe, at least for another day, the hospital decided to have her stay over night. And the social worker called Kerry Seitz at The Family Justice Center.

Kerry directs the Teen Prostitution Prevention Project (TPPP) of the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County ("the CAC"). She coordinates the efforts of providers who advocate for youth exploited through prostitution. The TPPP has developed a unique systemic response that treats prostituted youth not as criminals, but as abused children. The CAC is the primary child-serving, on-site partner at the FJC.

When Kerry spoke with the hospital social worker and learned that Sara had just turned

18, she knew that Cherie Jimenez of Finex House, another on-site partner, should take the lead. Cherie, a longtime advocate of survivors of domestic violence, has an office just downstairs from Kerry's. She currently directs Kim's Project, an initiative that serves women involved in prostitution—many of whom have long histories of childhood sexual abuse, violence and recurrent trauma.

Kerry advocates for girls under 18 and Cherie serves adults, so the two must work together closely to support young women who are coming of age under the highest risk of experiencing violence, substance abuse and homelessness. This is especially true for those who are "aging out" of the foster care system with little of the skills, resources or support that they need to stay safe and move forward.

Sara was one of these young women. A traumatic and unstable

continued on page 4 →



© Julie Brown Smith

### Art for the FJC!

The Art Connection has awarded the FJC twenty original works by local artists.

→ See more on page 2

### Inside this issue:

A Message from the Site Operations Director (continued)	2
Art Connection	2
Partner Profile	3
Collaboration Works (continued)	4
Our Mission	5
Our Vision	5
Events	6
FJC Staff Directory	
Directions	

### A Message from Dee Kennedy, Site Operations Director

The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston helps make it easier for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse to get the many different types of help that they need.

If you need help—but don't know where to go, who to turn to, or where to start—call us or stop by. The FJC brings a diverse group of partner organizations together to offer a variety of victim services under one roof. (All service providers located at the FJC are listed above.) You will find advocates and counselors who can talk with you about your experience of domestic violence or sexual assault. They can help you to explore your options, identify support services, find ways to keep yourself safe and—if you have children—help to protect them as well.

You will find lawyers who can help with restraining orders, probate court matters (custody, visitation, child support, spousal support, divorce and paternity), housing, education, privacy, employment, and advice on obtaining transitional assistance.

continued on page 2 →

### Family Justice Center of Boston

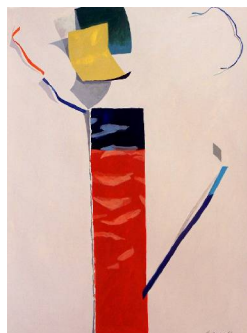
Open for service  
Monday to Friday  
9:00 am –5:00 pm

989 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston MA 02215

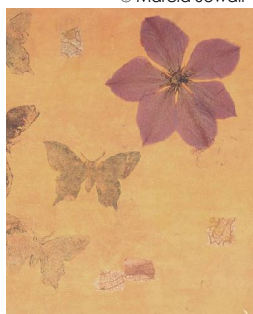
617 779-2100

## Local Artists Donate Original Works through The Art Connection

Richard Amory, Assistant Development Director



© Marcia Sewall



© Karin Sanborn



© Suzanne Hodes



© David Kupferman

An important part of the FJC's mission is to "provide a safe and welcoming environment" that promotes the dignity of victims and families who are seeking help.

One way that we do this is by providing on-site child care in a comfortable and expansive waiting area filled with books, toys and activities for children of all ages. This makes the FJC friendlier and more accessible to families.

Another powerful way to create this type of environment is by filling our hallways and counseling rooms with lively, beautiful and diverse works of original art. The FJC and our partners are thrilled that there is an organization in Boston that helps make

this possible.

In their own words, "The Art Connection is a nonprofit organization that expands public access to visual art through a unique art donation and placement program. Working with artists and collectors who wish to donate artwork to public and nonprofit organizations, The Art Connection acts as an art clearinghouse, simplifying the donation process and offering a wide range of original works for selection by qualifying nonprofit agencies in Greater Boston."

The Art Connection recently facilitated the donation of twenty paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures by sixteen local artists to the Family Justice Center. (Four of these works are shown to the left on this page; one appears

on page 1.)

We feel that this extremely varied group of art works, which we selected from hundreds made available through The Art Connection, will make the FJC a more stimulating and enjoyable environment for all of our visitors.

Many thanks to our talented and generous artist donors and to The Art Connection for bringing us together!

We plan to host a reception, to which all of the artists will be invited, to celebrate the final installation of these works later in the year.

To learn more about The Art Connection, visit their website at [www.theartconnection.org](http://www.theartconnection.org).

## Message from the Site Operations Director (cont.)

→ continued from page 1

Police detectives and prosecutors work on the second floor and are available to answer any questions you may have about criminal cases and the criminal justice system. And, while you are visiting any of the agencies at the FJC, your children can spend time in the drop-in day care with our child care specialist.

**If you are worried that your child may have been physically or sexually assaulted, or traumatized as a result of witnessing violence, call us or come in to talk with someone in person.** Staff from the Children's Advocacy Center and its partner agencies can help with crisis interven-

tion, information and referrals, forensic interviews and specialized medical exams, trauma evaluation and counseling, and victim support and advocacy for children, teens and families.

**If your sister, brother, neighbor or best friend has been victimized, and you don't know how to help, call us or drop in.** Advocates will provide facts and information about domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. They can explain what the person is dealing with, what can help make them safer, and what could put them in greater danger. Sometimes, it can be frightening, awkward, and frustrating to try to help. Having

someone to talk it over with can make it easier for you reach out and support the people you care about.

**If you want more information about domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse, or about the services that our partners provide at the FJC, call us or stop by.** The FJC is here as a resource to victims, survivors, their families and friends, and to the community at large. Please spread the news and let your family, your clients, your students, your friends and your neighbors know that we are here to help.

- Dee Kennedy

FJC Staff Directory page 6 →

## FJC Partner Profile:

### Kim Todd / Dress for Success Boston



**Organization:** Dress for Success Boston

**Name / Position:** Kim Todd, Executive Director

**Organizational Mission and Vision:** The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Our vision is to become an acknowledged leader in advancing the socioeconomic development of disadvantaged women.

**What do you do for Dress for Success?**

My job is to run the organization on a day to day basis, supervise volunteers, and, most impor-

tantly, create and implement a fundraising plan which will allow us to continue to support disadvantaged women. Nancy Schneider and Enith Levine started Dress for Success Boston in 2001 in Roslindale. Since the very beginning, Nancy and Enith have volunteered their time and talents to bring this organization to where it is today.

**What motivates you to show up every day?**

Every day for me is different, because the women who walk through our doors all have their own stories. No matter what they have been through, they are at a point in their lives where they are ready to take control, and make a better future for themselves and their families.

Our goal is to serve as many women as possible in the Greater Boston area. Of the 2,065 women we have served to date, we know of 830 who are now employed.

**Do you have an FJC success story to share?**

One evening, Karen McLaughlin from the Human Trafficking Unit of the Boston Police Department stopped by, telling us that she had two women who had just es-

caped from a slavery situation with nothing but the clothes on their backs. She asked if we could help. The women were from Ethiopia and could speak very little English.

With the help of Ellena Haile at the front desk, who served as translator, we were able to give them some clothing, shoes and toiletries. They seemed grateful for our help, and we hear that they are currently living at a shelter and trying to heal and rebuild their lives. It means a lot to us knowing that we are able to help other advocates at the FJC who are doing such amazing work.

*"It means a lot to us knowing that we are able to help other advocates at the FJC who are doing such amazing work."*

#### Dress for Success Boston

Open from 10 am to 4 pm  
Monday through Thursday  
at the  
Family Justice Center  
617 323-7544  
boston@dressforsuccess.org

## Collaboration Works (cont.)

***Cherie describes young people like Sara as “hard to engage”. Nevertheless, she specializes in finding ways to engage them.***

→ continued from page 1

childhood and ineffective interventions by various “systems” had taught her not to trust anyone—least of all authority figures who claimed to want to help her. Cherie describes young people like Sara as “hard to engage”. Nevertheless, she specializes in finding ways to engage them. The best way that she has discovered lately is through the type of cross-system collaboration that the FJC helps make possible.

After speaking with Kerry and learning more about Sara from the social worker at the hospital, Cherie spoke with members of the MA Human Trafficking Task Force who, she discovered, were already working with Sara. The Task Force is a project of the Boston Police Department and is one of three BPD units which are located at the FJC. Although it focuses on international human trafficking, the Task Force responds to a wide range of cases involving prostitution.

Cherie’s increasingly close relationship with the Task Force has been one of the most surprising and beneficial elements of her work at the FJC.

Equally surprising has been the fact that many of the young women with whom she works have close relationships with Task Force members as well. She recalls the time when one young woman mentioned that a few of her “friends” were going to be giving her a ride somewhere she needed to be. When she inquired, Cheri learned that the young woman’s friends were Sergeant Detective Kelley O’Connell of the Boston Police Department and Sergeant Pi Heseltine of the Massachusetts State Police.

Given the longstanding tension and misunderstanding that have hindered collaboration between service providers and the police, and the mistrust of law enforcement that exists in many communities, Cherie considered this a very positive development.

When Cherie and Pi arrived at the hospital the following morning, the advocate, the police officer and the social worker were already functioning as a team. As a result, Sara was much more open and engaged in planning for her own safety and willing to take advantage of available services.

That night, Cherie brought Sara to a local shelter. Over the weeks that followed, Cheri, the police officers, and the hospital social worker all worked individually to support Sara based on their own unique areas of responsibility and expertise while simultaneously communicating with and assisting one another. Financial assistance, a supporting housing voucher, medical and mental health services and a GED course were all critical forms of support that the team pursued.

The social worker was struck by how differently this process went than when she last tried to help Sara, saying “It didn’t *work* a year ago.” Observing Sara’s new engagement with group therapy and other services over several weeks, she attributed the change in the young woman’s comfort and trust level to the more integrated, collaborative approach that the team offered. Having earned Sara’s trust, they could now focus on helping her break the cycle of poverty and desperation that had made her so vulnerable.



## Our Mission

The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston fosters collaboration in service to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where individuals and families benefit from the availability of services offered by diverse nonprofit and governmental partner organizations. We are committed to complementing and enhancing the health of victim service organizations throughout Boston. As a hub of cooperative activity, the FJC facilitates continuous learning and serves as a resource center for professional development. We strive to coordinate violence intervention and prevention services that are culturally responsive and accessible to all victims.

## Our Vision

**The Family Justice Center of Boston envisions justice for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.**

### **Justice for victims will mean that:**

- ◇ Police, prosecutors and service providers collaborate closely and offer coordinated responses which minimize additional trauma and promote the safety, dignity, well-being and rights of all.
  - ◇ Law enforcement and criminal justice practices reflect a deep understanding of the dynamics of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.
  - ◇ Useful information about available services and support reaches everyone who needs it.
  - ◇ Governmental and community-based organizations are culturally responsive; provide appropriate, accessible and equitable services to all who need them; and are accountable to the communities that they serve.
  - ◇ There are no gaps in service or “cracks in the system”.
  - ◇ Victims are respected and are never blamed for the violence and abuse.
  - ◇ Child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are not socially tolerated.
- ⇒ **Rates of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are reduced until we are able to stop these crimes entirely.**

**Family Justice  
Center of Boston**

**Open for service  
Monday to Friday  
9:00 am –5:00 pm**

**989 Common-  
wealth Avenue  
Boston MA 02215**

**617 779-2100**

## Events and Opportunities

### Getting to the FJC

The FJC is located near the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Babcock St. in Brighton.

**Parking:** Metered parking is available. Ask about special parking for victims at the front desk.

**By the "T":** Take the Green Line "B" train (Boston College) to either the Pleasant Street or the Babcock Street stop (just past BU's Agganis Arena); both are less than one block from the Family Justice Center.

**On the MBTA Bus:** Take the 66 bus (Dudley Station to Harvard Square) to the corner of Comm. Ave & Harvard Ave. Walk several blocks east (toward downtown Boston) to 989 Comm. Ave.

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### Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County Seminar Series

#### Summer Jobs for Boston Youth

Speaker Panel moderated by Larry Mayes, Chief of Human Services, Boston Youth Fund

Providing students with job opportunities and the ability to earn a paycheck for the summer—along with quality work experiences—is the philosophy of the Boston Youth Fund. Provided with opportunities, students are able to discover and explore their talents while contributing to the well being of their community. This presentation will provide you with information about the registration process, job availability, as well as student eligibility requirements for jobs available through the Boston Youth Fund's Hopeline.

**Thursday February 8, 2007**

**9:30 am –11:00 am**

**Northeastern University  
360 Huntington Avenue**

**Curry Student Center, Rooms 318, 320 & 322**

Take the Green Line to Northeastern or the Orange Line to Ruggles  
Parking available at the Renaissance Park Garage, 788 Columbus Avenue

For additional information, contact the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)  
617 779-2146 or [cac@suf.state.ma.us](mailto:cac@suf.state.ma.us)

Co-sponsored by Center for Community Health, Education, Research and Services (CCHERS)

***The CAC Seminar Series is offered free of charge and no pre-registration is required!***

#### Upcoming Seminar Topic:

One on One Intervention to Prevent Violence  
Presented by Dr. Peter Stringham  
March 8

### FJC Staff Directory

To speak with an FJC Partner organization or for general information, please call the main number: (617) 779-2100. Our reception staff, **Ellena Haile** and **Verlana Morales**, will be glad to help you.

For information about the FJC's child care services, please call the main desk and ask to speak with: **Nancy Reyes, Child Care Specialist**

To inquire about potential partnerships, use of the FJC facility and other opportunities for collaboration, please contact: **Dee Kennedy, FJC Site Operations Director** (617) 343-5691  
[Deirdre.kennedy@cityofboston.gov](mailto:Deirdre.kennedy@cityofboston.gov)

To make a financial or in-kind contribution to the FJC, for inquiries related to outreach, communications or volunteer / internship opportunities, to receive this monthly newsletter by email, and for general information, please contact: **Richard Amory, Assistant Development Director** (617) 779-2152 [Richard.amory@cityofboston.gov](mailto:Richard.amory@cityofboston.gov)